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LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On 2 September 1997 a letter from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations and an annex thereto containing a letter signed by Leonard Petrossian, "Acting President of the Republic of Nagorny Karabakh", was circulated as a document of the Security Council (S/1997/676).

In this connection I have the honour to draw your attention to the following:

1. No "Republic of Nagorny Karabakh", referred to in the aforementioned letter, exists in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. As to the designation Nagorny Karabakh, it is, first of all, a Russian place name and, secondly, a purely geographical concept: it designates the mountainous region of Karabakh, which is an inalienable and integral part of Azerbaijan.

2. It is a fact that, in its efforts to seize and appropriate part of the territory of Azerbaijan, Armenia initially launched its separatist movement in the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan gambling on the noble principle of the self-determination of peoples, while totally ignoring the principle of territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders. Armenia later resorted to armed aggression against Azerbaijan, occupying a sizeable portion of its territory.

The so-called Republic of Nagorny Karabakh is nothing more than a tactical ruse of the strategy pursued by Armenia's political leaders which is aimed at annexing the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan to Armenia. Rejecting this, the international community, through the United Nations Security Council unconditionally reaffirmed that the Nagorny Karabakh region is a part of Azerbaijani territory (resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993)), while at the Lisbon summit meeting in 1996 the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) put forward three principles for the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict which were supported by all members of OSCE except Armenia.

3. Azerbaijan categorically rejects any attempt to disseminate within the United Nations the notion of an administrative and territorial entity that does not exist in Azerbaijani territory.

4. The receipt of Mr. Petrossian's letter by fax and the circulation of this letter of highly dubious contents by the Permanent Mission of Armenia as a document of the Security Council is blatant testimony to Armenia's direct participation and involvement as the main party to the conflict. Such actions only aggravate an already complex situation and impede a rapid settlement of the conflict, which Armenia allegedly advocates.

5. I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar KOULIEV
Permanent Representative